

today. While the *Mars Pathfinder* was developed from slightly more than a small box of raw materials, the individuals who helped to accomplish this tremendous feat most likely had their interest sparked by engineering competitions similar to the one on Capitol Hill today.

Best of luck to Wheeling, Rolling Meadow and the other teams in today's competition and I hope that these young people will continue their education and even pursue careers in the exciting fields of science and engineering.

**PRaise FOR ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, AND THE STUDENTS FROM THE STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HOBOKEN HIGH SCHOOL**

**HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the 200 high school teams across the country who participated in a robotics competition put on by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). I would especially like to recognize the team from Northern New Jersey comprised of Engineered Solutions from Ft. Lee, New Jersey, and high school students from the Stevens Institute of Technology and Hoboken High School.

This competition underscores the work of FIRST, a foundation which partners high school students with engineers from corporations and small businesses, scientists from NASA and the military, and mentors from world class universities. The unique FIRST competition allows students to get hands-on experience in developing cutting-edge design and manufacturing processes in an energetic, competitive environment. This program represents a unique method for getting students excited about science and technology.

I commend the excellent work done by the students on the Engineered Solutions/Stevens Institute of Technology/Hoboken High School team. And I wish the students from the other 200 teams across the country all the best.

**IN HONOR OF THE HERNDON ROTARY CLUB'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Peggy Vetter, the thirty-third recipient of the Herndon Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year Award. For the past twenty-two years, she has devoted her time and effort to extensive volunteer and leadership activities throughout Herndon.

In 1976, shortly after moving to the area, Peggy founded the Herndon Observer newspaper. The Observer was one of the first newspapers in the growing area. While the newspaper was initially published just twice

monthly, it allowed for the town and its citizens to communicate and gave everyone a voice in the community. Peggy sold the paper in 1990, but continues to report on Herndon government as well as its people and events.

Peggy's involvement in the community and its many facets did not stop there. While working at her paper she supported the community's youth by hiring high school students as correspondents and office helpers. In addition, she supported fund-raising efforts for youth sports, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

Her skills with community fundraisers led her to chair the Rotary Club's annual efforts on behalf of the Embury Rucker Shelter, which has collected thousands of dollars' worth of clothing and supplies for those temporarily homeless. She participated in a wide range of activities with the Rotary Club, from cleaning up Spring Branch to ringing bells for the Salvation Army to acting as a Herndon Festival Marshal.

On her own, she has volunteered at her children's schools, served for five years as a Cub Scout den mother, and helped found the American Women's Club in Kingston, Jamaica. In addition, she served on the Herndon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for many years. She was honored in 1996 as Woman of the Year by the Herndon Business and Professional Woman's Club.

Peggy lived in several places and traveled extensively before settling in Herndon. She was born in Valpariso, Indiana, went to high school in Niles, Michigan, and then attended St. Mary's College at Notre Dame. She started her career as a journalist during World War II, serving as a reporter and editor for the Niles Daily Star. Following her marriage to her husband Don, she served as an assistant society editor of the Lansing State Journal and a capital correspondent for the Detroit Free Press and Times.

Her husband's job with Pan Am Airlines led her and her three children to travel around the world to places such as Guam, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Miami, before coming to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area in 1974.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in honoring and thanking Peggy Vetter for all of her hard work to improve the Herndon community. Her spirit and dedication to public service is truly outstanding, and we congratulate her for being named the Herndon Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO FALLON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize twenty-one years of dedicated service and commitment to the health of thousands of patients across the state of Massachusetts. Fallon Healthcare System celebrates not only twenty-one years of operation, but also marks this event by the enrollment of their 200,000th member. I am proud to play a role in recognizing Fallon here today as they play a vital part in the economy of the region and are a critical provider of care to the community.

Fallon was founded in 1977 as the first Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in Central Massachusetts and, after just two decades, was twice named one of the best HMOs in America by US News and World Report. This organization has also been recognized by Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, and many other national and local advocacy groups, publications, and health care specialists.

Fallon has been a leader in the community with efforts to provide health care to citizens both inside and outside of their health plan. Their efforts to assist the elderly, the poor, children, and to reach out to the community are all signs of their commitment to the health of the citizens in Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this important occasion in the history of Fallon Healthcare System.

**THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Township of Fairfield, County of Essex, New Jersey as they commemorate the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of their community.

In the early years, shortly after Connecticut settlers founded Newark in 1666, a group moved out to the northwest and settled in what is now Fairfield. The settlers bought the land, known as Fairfield, from the Indians. In 1701, eight proprietors from England came together and formed the East Jersey Society and purchased a 13,500-acre tract of land from the top of the First Watchung Mountain to the Passaic River, which was patented Horseneck. They built their homes on high ground and fed their stock from hay cut in the Bit Piece and Little Piece Meadows. The New Jersey State Legislature created Caldwell Township. The boundaries were drawn from the county line to Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Livingston, and from the Passaic River to the top of the first Mountain. The twenty-eight mile township was named for Reverend James Caldwell, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church where St. Aloysius R.C. Church, Caldwell now stands.

On April 8, 1799, the first town meeting was held and nine school districts were established. Also, at the meeting a \$200 budget was voted to defray the expenses of the school districts. The Fairfield district's first school antedated the formation of Caldwell Township, a school that was built just before or immediately following the Revolutionary War. Classes were instructed in the Dutch language. In 1957, a new school was built at the intersection of Horseneck and Fairfield Roads. In 1892, the first town to break away from Caldwell Township in a dispute over road taxes was the Borough of Caldwell. This marked the beginning of a succession of towns including, Verona, North Caldwell, Essex Fells, West Caldwell, Roseland and Cedar Grove. This left Caldwell Township which is now Fairfield with an area of 10.4 square miles. By the end of the century, Fairfield would be faced with more seceding territories.

With the invention of the automobile came the necessity for a speed limit in Fairfield. On December 4, 1899, an ordinance was passed designating a speed limit of 8 miles per hour. A couple of years later, the speed limit was increased to 10 miles per hour (five miles while turning corners) for any horse, mule or vehicle. The ordinance also indicated that any wheeled vehicle must have a bell or gong of sufficient power to give warning of an approach. In 1919, it came to the attention of the Township committees that the Passaic River had become a popular recreational area and the committee found it necessary to make it unlawful to bathe in the waters of Caldwell Township without being clothed. Other problems involving the river had become more serious. The lowlands have always been subjected to flooding. In fact, the Township's flood control program dates back to 1844.

The 1930's saw Fairfield begin to evolve from a farm community to a more suburban community. As the population continued to increase over the 1,000 person mark, an organized police department was established in 1937. The year 1940 saw industrial development move into Fairfield with the construction of the Curtis Wright airplane factory. In the 1960's a campaign for a municipal name change was underfoot. As the community's population continued to boom it was apparent that the Township was in need of its own postal facility. However, the Township of Caldwell found itself unable to obtain a facility under that name because of the confusion with Caldwell Borough, the post office through which the community was served. As a consequence, Mayor Stephen Szabo suggested that the municipality again become known as Fairfield. The idea was quickly endorsed by other local officials and from most of the community.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Township of Fairfield and its citizens as they celebrate this milestone.

#### SPORTSMEN'S MEMORIAL ACT OF 1998

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Sportsmen's Memorial Act of 1998. This legislation will honor this Nation's sportsmen by initiating a process through which a memorial will be established in, or around, the District of Columbia.

I think everyone will agree that the conservation of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources is of critical importance to all of our citizens.

Many government agencies have been created to manage our natural resources. In addition, many national, state and local associations have been established to support conservation efforts.

However, standing at the forefront of these collective efforts are sportsmen, whose financial support to the Nation's fish and wildlife conservation efforts number in the tens of billions of dollars.

Sportsmen have been the financial and philosophical backbone of successful fish and

wildlife management throughout the 20th century.

The support of these individuals has allowed fish and wildlife managers to protect and restore millions of acres of habitat, engage in quality research on a multitude of fish and wildlife species, and actively manage our natural resources on a day-to-day basis.

In addition, sportsmen, through their purchase of state hunting and fishing licenses, stamps, and tags, have contributed billions of dollars directly to wildlife agencies.

This support has allowed fish and wildlife managers to achieve some of the greatest success stories.

For all of these reasons, I believe it is appropriate that we honor these men and women with a memorial in the National Capital Region.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the sportsmen of this Country by cosponsoring the Sportsmen Memorial Act of 1998.

#### JOINT HEARING—SENATE LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE; ORGAN DONATION ALLOCATION

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Chairmen JEFFORDS and BLILEY for conducting hearings on the problem of organ allocation. As they well known, organs have not been allocated in a fair way to benefit patients in the past and we are in a position now to take a stand for patients and for fairness.

This is a simple issue of fairness and quality. If you are a patient in need of a transplant and you live in Tennessee, the average time you spend on the waiting list is about 21 days. If you live in my part of the country, the San Francisco Bay Area, the average waiting time for that same patient is over 300 days.

In every part of the country, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that minority candidates wait longer than their white counterparts for available organs.

Is this fair? When my good friend Congressman MOAKLEY was diagnosed with hepatitis B and was in need for a liver transplant, his doctors told him to leave Boston and move to Virginia to increase his chances of obtaining a liver.

Fairness is half of this fight. Quality is the other. There is a lot of money to be made in organ transplants. Too many centers have been opened to increase the prestige and the profits of a local hospital—and not because they do a good job. In fact, in general the lower volume small transplant centers have poorer outcomes than the high volume transplant centers. The fact is, having a transplant center has become the equivalent of health pork. Many of these centers are like the excess projects in the recently-passed highway bill: centers without a justification. But unlike highway pork, these centers often end up killing patients because they do not do as good a job as the high volume centers. I really think it is immoral for centers who have a lower success rate than the high volume centers to be fighting the Department's regulation. Their

actions are a disgrace to the Hippocratic Oath.

The proliferation of poor quality transplant centers not only wastes lives, it wastes money. The United States has 289 hospitals doing transplants—and that is an enormous commitment of capital. I have read that a hospital has to invest about \$10 million to be able to do heart transplants.

These proliferating costs are part of what drives health inflation in the United States and part of what places such huge budget pressures on Medicare. Concentrating transplants in fewer, high-quality, life-saving centers would allow us to save hundreds of millions of dollars in the years to come. The Department's regulation gives us the potential to focus on Centers of Excellence where we not only save lives, but can obtain economies of scale necessary to preserve the Medicare program.

If my colleagues are serious about putting patients first, what is so onerous about a system that proposes to base transplant decisions on common medical criteria on a medical need list—not geography, not income, not even levels of insurance coverage—just pure professional medical opinion and medical need.

This hearing is about putting patients first—not putting transplant bureaucracies first. I can think of no better way to put patients first than to make the system fair for all. I urge the Committees to support the Department's regulations.

#### A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 1998*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation with my distinguished colleague, Mr. DALE KILDEE of Michigan, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). In 1988, pursuant to Section 405 of the IHCIA, the Indian Health Service (IHS) was directed to select up to four tribally-operated IHS hospitals to participate in a demonstration program to test methods for the direct billing for and receipt of payment for health services provided to Medicare and Medicaid eligible patients. This was established to determine whether collections would be increased through direct involvement of tribal health care providers versus the current practice which required billings and collections be routed through the IHS.

In 1996, Congress extended this demonstration program until 1998. This extension allowed Congress additional time with which to consider whether to permanently authorize the collection program. The law also required the IHS to submit a report to Congress on the demonstration program on September 30, 1996, the same day the program was originally to expire. The report was to evaluate whether the objectives were fulfilled and whether direct billing should be allowed for other tribal providers who operate an IHS facility. This report is still undergoing Departmental review, however, it is our understanding that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service are very pleased with the success of the demonstration program.